

Trial

ANECDOTES

AND OTHER

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CURIOUS INFORMATION

CONCERNING

WILLIAM BRODIE & GEORGE SMITH;

ALSO, OF

JAMES FALCONER AND PETER BRUCE,

For BREAKING into and ROBBING the Dundee Banking

Company's Office, in Dundee;

*With other Occurrences, since they received their Sentence till their
Execution.*

EDINBURGH:

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M,DCC,LXXXVIII.

Where may be had, the Trial in three Numbers, Price 9d. Also,
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Rec. May 15, 1900.

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NARRATIVE OF THE FACTS

RESPECTING THE BREAKING INTO

THE SHOP AT THE HEAD OF BRIDGE-STREET,

BELONGING TO

JOHN and ANDREW BRUCE, Merchants in Edinburgh,

On the Night betwixt the 24th and 25th of December 1786.

On the 28th of July, the Sheriff-substitute with the Procurator-fiscal, and Mr Bruce, went to the prison to Smith, and the Sheriff-substitute informed him, that he was come to take down his declaration respecting Mess. Bruces shop-breaking; and therefore hoped he would tell the truth. To which Smith answered, he had no objection to tell the whole truth; he thought it a piece of justice to do so. Smith was then examined, who declared, in substance, as follows:

That, in the month of November 1786, the declarant and Brodie had laid a plan to break into a hardware shop on Bridge-street belonging to Davidson M'Kain: That they accordingly went there one night with a parcel of false keys and a small iron crow, and opened the door, by unlocking the padlock and lock thereof with the false keys; after which they went and hid the false keys and iron crow, in case any of these articles should be found upon them; and then returned to the shop: That Smith was to go into the shop, and Brodie to watch at the outside of the door: That the declarant carried with him a dark lanthorn, which he lighted: That their intention was only to look at the goods, but not to carry them off that night: That the declarant staid in the shop for about half an hour; and, after being some time there, Brodie called out, What made him stay so long, was he taking an inventory of the shop: That the declarant only brought away with him that night seventeen steel watch chains, and a small red pocket-book. The steel chains the declarant afterwards sold along with some other goods of his own to an auctioneer, and the pocket-book he afterwards made a present of to Michael Henderson, stabler in Grass-market, his daughter: That the declarant and Brodie afterwards in about a fortnight, went back to rob M'Kain's shop completely, and opened the door, as formerly, when Smith went in, and left Brodie to watch without; but he was not a few minutes in the shop, when he heard a person in the room immediately below rise out of his

his bed, and come towards the door; on which the declarant pulled up the shop-door, and run straight into the street, without carrying any thing with him: That he found Brodie had fled; and the declarant, on going up to the main street, found Brodie standing at the head of the entry into the old Green Market: That a little after this, the declarant and Brodie walked arm in arm down Bridge-street, in order to see what they could observe about the shop; and in passing down the street, they saw a man looking out at the door immediately under M'Kain's shop, and a guard soldier standing opposite, at the head of the stair which goes down to the Flesh Market; so that the declarant and Brodie passed on along the Bridge, and afterwards went to their several homes, as nothing could be done further that night.

Brodie then told the declarant, that the shop at the head of Bridge-street, belonging to Mess. Bruces, would be a very proper shop for breaking into, as it contained valuable goods, and he knew the lock would be easily opened, as it was a plain lock, his men having lately altered that shop door, at the lowering of the streets: That the plan of breaking into this shop was accordingly concerted betwixt them, and they agreed to meet on the evening of the 24th of December 1786, being a Saturday, at the house of James Clark, vintner, in the head of the Flesh Market close, where they generally met with other company to gamble: That having met there, they played at the game of hazard, till the declarant lost all his money; but at this time Brodie was in luck, and gaining money: That the declarant often asked Brodie to go with him on their own business; but Brodie, as he was gaining money, declined going, and desired the declarant to stay a little, and he would go with him;—the declarant however turned impatient, as it was near four in the morning, and the time for doing their business was going; he therefore left the room, and went by himself to Mess. Bruces shop, when he opened the door with false keys, and, after getting in, lighted a dark lanthorn, and took out of the show-boxes or glaisses on the counter, and from the inside of the windows, ten watches, five of them gold, three silver, and two metal, with the whole rings, lockets, and other jewellery and gold trinkets in the show-boxes, all which he put into two old black stockings, and carried them to the stable of Michael Henderson in the Grass-market, where he hid them under some rubbish below the manger, and afterwards went home to his own room in the Grass-market: That he staid there till near eight in the morning, and went up to Mr Brodie's house, when the maid told him that Mr Brodie was in bed, and the declarant left his name, and said he wanted to see him, and thereafter returned home to his own room: That after staying there some time, Mr Brodie came and called for him, when the declarant told him what he had done, and desired Mr Brodie to stay till he would go for

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the goods: That the declarant accordingly went to the stable, and brought the two black stockings, containing the goods, and poured them out upon a bed in a closet off his room, and then said to Mr Brodie, You see what good luck I have been in; you might have been there; but as you did not go, you cannot expect a full share; but there are the goods, pick out what you chuse for yourself; upon which Mr Brodie took a gold seal, a gold watch-key set with garnet stones, and two gold rings: That the declarant and Brodie went twice over the goods, in order to ascertain their value; and the declarant, who was himself skilled in articles in that line, was of opinion they would have cost Mess. Bruce about L. 350 Sterling: That after this, the goods were again put into the black stockings, and carried back to Michael Henderson's stable; and, in the course of that day, being Sunday, the declarant and Brodie frequently passed Mess. Bruces shop-door, to see in what situation the door stood, and learn if the robbery had been discovered; and nothing appearing, the declarant proposed to Brodie to go back that night, in order to sweep the shop clean; but Brodie objected to this, saying that a discovery might have been made, and a watch set to entrap them; on this account they desisted from the attempt: That, after this, Brodie and the declarant had several meetings, consulting about the safest way to dispose of the goods; and upon Tuesday evening it was concerted between them, that the declarant should go off next day for England with the goods; and at that time Brodie gave the declarant five guineas and a half to carry his expences on the road; and, to evade suspicion, the declarant set out early next morning, and travelled on foot as far as Dunbar, where he took the mail-coach and went to Chesterfield in England, and there sold the whole goods taken out of Mess. Bruces shop, excepting what Mr Brodie got, for L. 105 Sterling, to John Taskar, *alias* Murray, who, he knew, had been banished from Scotland: That the declarant sent a twenty-pound note of this money in a letter to Mr Brodie, informing him of the sale, and desiring him to pay himself what the declarant had borrowed, and supply his wife with money till the declarant's return: That the declarant staid for some weeks in England, during which time he had several letters from Brodie; and, on his return, gave to Brodie three ten-pound notes more of the money, to keep for him, and to prevent suspicion by the declarant's having so much money about him, which money Brodie gave him as he wanted it, but gained a great part of it at play: That, among the goods sold to Taskar, there was a particular gold watch, which Taskar said he would wear himself, and, to prevent a detection, got the name and number altered by a man at Leeds, and which watch Taskar was wearing when the declarant left England.

Mr

Mr Brodie was examined the same day, and being interrogated declared, That he had been employed by the Magistrates of Edinburgh to alter the door of Mess. Bruces shop, at the head of Bridge-street; that his men altered it accordingly, after the streets had been lowered. And being interrogate if he was at that time acquainted with George Smith, present prisoner in the tolbooth? declares, That he does not at present remember at what time he became acquainted with Smith—But as the declarant has other business of his own at present to take up his time, declines to give any further answer to this or any other question at present. Being further interrogated if he recollects receiving from George Smith a gold seal, a gold watch-key, and two gold rings?—he declines to answer this or any other question, for the reasons above stated. And being desired to sign this declaration, he refused so to do.

Mary Hibbut, spouse to George Smith, was also examined, who declared, That one morning Brodie came to the room where her husband and she resided, and examined a parcel of jewellery goods; and she saw Mr Brodie get the seal, watch-key, and rings mentioned in her husband's declaration: That she saw Brodie give her husband some money the night before he went to England; and, during her husband's absence, she received money from Mr Brodie.

Andrew Ainslie was examined, and declared, That he was at Glasgow at the time Mess. Bruces shop was broke; but on his return to Edinburgh, was informed of the particulars by Smith: That he often saw in Mr Brodie's possession, hanging at his watch, a gold seal and watch-key, which Brodie said these, with other trinkets, were the only things he had got of what was taken out of Mess. Bruces shop; and has often heard Smith and Brodie quarrelling, and Brodie grumbling and complaining that he had never got his proper share of the goods taken out of that shop.

John Brown, *alias* Humphry Moore, declared, That the first time he saw Brodie was supping in Smith's house: That he was not come to Edinburgh when Mess. Bruces shop was broke: That he has often heard Smith and Brodie talking with regard to that shop-breaking, and Brodie's complaining that he had not got his proper share of the goods; and particularly, in a conversation betwixt Brodie and the declarant, after the shop of Inglis and Horner's was broke into, Brodie damned Smith for having broke into this last shop himself, and said he would treat him, Brodie, in the same manner he had done as to Bruces shop, which was very ungenerous, after he had given him the information: That he had often had Brodie's gold watch in his custody, and saw the gold seal and watch-key hanging at it, which Brodie often said was the only things he had got that were taken from Bruces shop.

STATE OF THE PROCESS,

AT THE INSTANCE OF

JOHN HAMILTON, CHIMNEY-SWEEPER,
in Portsburgh,

AGAINST

WILLIAM BRODIE, WRIGHT AND CABINET-MAKER,
in Edinburgh.

THE process is in the form of a petition and complaint, against Brodie, Smith, and Ainslie. It states, that, on a certain night in January last, he, Hamilton, accidentally met with the persons in the house of Clark vintner, at the head of the Fleshmarket close: That when he joined them there playing at dice, that, suspecting no fraud or deceit, he had joined in the amusement, and, in a short space, lost six guineas, and some odd shillings: That, being surprised how this could happen, he seized on the dice, and had them examined and discovered: *That they were loaded, or false dice, filled at one end or corner with lead:* And he concludes with praying for a warrant to apprehend and incarcerate the said persons, until they should repeat the sum of which he had been defrauded, and pay a sum over and above, in name of damages and expences.

Answers were given in for Mr Brodie to this complaint, and separate answers for Smith and Ainslie.

They stated, in general, that, on the evening mentioned in the petition, they were innocently amusing themselves with a game at dice over a glass of punch, and that the petitioner intruded himself upon their company: That if false dice were used on that occasion, it was unknown to the defenders, as the dice they played with belonged to the house: That, if the petitioner had lost the sum he alledged it had not been gained by the defenders, as Smith and Ainslie had said, that, so far from gaining any thing that evening, they had lost, and Brodie said he had only gained 7s. 6d.: That the petitioner himself was a noted adept in the science of gambling; and it was not very credible that he would have allowed himself to be imposed upon in the manner he had alledged.

The *replies* for Hamilton to these *answers* are a curious production. After stating the nature of the complaint, and the defences that had been made to it for Brodie, Smith, and Ainslie, they say, 'A wonderful story indeed! Smith and Ainslie, two noted shar-
'pers at the business, in their answers, assert they were losers, and
'innocent Mr Brodie avers, he was only a gainer in this paltry
'trifle of 7s. 6d. and yet the petitioner finds himself out of pocket
'near

'near as many guineas as that gentleman says he received of shillings. Certain, however, it is, that it could not sink! Certain also it is, that in their company, by undue means, he lost five guinea notes, two half guineas in gold, and six shillings in silver, before he suspected the fraud.'

"Neither Dr Katterfelto, nor Bresslaw, were present to transmute it. Unless, therefore, some of their learned pupils had not been very near him, he would have been in possession of his money at this moment. Mr Brodie knows nothing about, and is *entirely ignorant of such devices, and always considered all dices to be alike*. It is, says he in his answers, it is the petitioner who 'is such an adept in the science, as to be alone capable of using such instruments, and of explaining the nature of them.'—Miserable! that the petitioner, a deemed sharper, should be taken in by a pigeon, to use the *lingua* of the Club. But so it has happened. Mr Brodie knows nothing of such vile tricks—not he! He never made them his study—not he! Never was at either pains or expences to acquire them, nor ever studied under Mr Bresslaw, &c. &c. for that very special purpose—not he indeed! Mr Brodie never haunted night-houses, where nothing but the blackest and vilest arts were practised to catch a pigeon; nor ever was accessory either by himself or others in his combination, to behold the poor young creature plucked alive, and not one feather left upon its wings—not he indeed! He never was accessory to see or be concerned in fleecing the ignorant, the thoughtless, the young, or the unwary, nor even made it his study, his *anxious study*, with unwearied concern, at midnight hours, to haunt the rooms, where he thought of meeting with the company, from which there was a possibility of fetching from a scurvy sixpence to a hundred guineas—not he indeed! He is unacquainted altogether, either with packing or shuffling a set of cards—he is indeed! Mr Brodie, in all his innocent amusements, never met with any person, who, after having been fleeced of money, to the amount of a hundred pounds, and detected of the vile and dishonest methods by which it had been abstracted from him, received, as a return for his moral rectitude, a very handsome incision on the eye—never he indeed! He never was in such company, nor ever met with such an accident—not he! it is only the petitioner, or such like him, who are known and adepts in the devices, which Mr Brodie very modestly says *he is innocent of*, who could be guilty of such practices, and receive such returns.

"But, however certain Mr Brodie's innocence may be *on these scores*, previous to the 17th January current, it is as certain, that on that night, both him, and Ainslie, and Smith, had acquired *more complete knowledge* of the business of gambling than the petitioner; for, notwithstanding all his art, they went infinitely beyond him; he was totally at a loss when he observed the dice take such a run; not he

he indeed ! but he was apprehensive something was going on unfair and ungenerous : At last, after having been despoiled of his money, he seized them, and discovered the charm. For this unjustifiable procedure in the defender, the petitioner is confident every good magistrate will feel it their duty to give him reparation ; and it is their business to check those infamous proceedings, be they followed by whatsoever person they may ; for, the *greater* the man is, and the *weightier* his purle, the more is *he* the *object* of justice and example ; and the *lower* the man is, in rank and station, *who* suffers by such, the *louder* is the cry, and *more* the demand for redress."

" If, so long ago as the 1711, the legislature had perceived its pernicious consequences, how much more is it the duty of those to whom its execution is entrusted, to act up to its very letter ; when it is a fact, that, in these modern times, gaming of every kind has prevailed all ranks ; from the stable-boy to the Peer it is the subject of study and of practice ; and some of every denomination have made it their chief business to attain the method or art how to cheat his neighbour the best ; his neighbour, nay, his friend and companion, who never would have suspected such a latent serpent lay in his breast. There are living instances of men, who, though born to independence, and enjoying most ample fortune, can intermix with the very lowest class of the multitude, and even court their company, from motives prompted surely by the principles only of rapacity and avarice ; and, without shame and remorse, use the most unjustifiable and dishonest practices to fleece them of their little pittance, pittances so much below their envy, that a relation of them would not bear the appearance of truth ; and what must these men appear to be in the mind of every good person ; yet still there are such who demean themselves to these practices, and, rather than associate with their equals, will descend to keep company with ostlers, pedlars, and stable-boys.

No. VI

ACCOUNT OF THE BEHAVIOUR of WILLIAM BRODIE and GEORGE SMITH,

From the time they received their Sentence, till their Execution.

On the day that Mr Brodie received his sentence he was very unconcerned ; but George Smith was much dejected. At coming out, after receiving sentence, Brodie attempted to kick Smith on the backside, and called him a cowardly villain. They were conducted back to prison by the city guard, amidst a numerous concourse of spectators. Smith was first chained by one foot to the iron goad

and Brodie stood looking on with great indifference ; but when he was desired to draw near to be secured in the same manner, he looked at them with great disdain, but was obliged to submit. Brodie's chain is longer than the rest, as he can sit at a table and write by himself. Smith's, Falconer's and Bruce's chains are much shorter than Brodie's. They have behaved tolerable well considering the small room they have on the goad, which goes across the room, and very securely fixed from one end of the room to the other in the wall, and hath four divisions or places, on which the chains are fixed, with strong iron supporters fastened into the stone floor ; and each has a mattress to lie on, opposite to himself. Smith has been very devout since his confinement, but has been much disturbed by Brodie, giving him approbrious names and bad language. The other two are next other, which Smith laments.— Few are admitted to see them, but those who receive orders.

Several ministers hath attended them, both of the presbyterian and episcopal persuasion and has been at much pains with them. Brodie has given but very little attention to what they said ; and and some times told one of them, that he wanted no journeyman parsons to disturb him. He has, however, been more attentive to the instructions of a minister of the Episcopal communion, who has been at more pains with him, than any of the others who attended him. Yet he some times, goes on with language not at all becoming his unfortunate situation.—He writes much concerning his affairs, and seems to lament for his children, but not much for one of the mothers.

He was in hopes of a reprieve for a while ; and when he received the warrant for his execution, he seemed to be very little dejected.—He railed much against Smith, and was very calmly answered by him.—He is much to be lamented on account of his rashness and folly in conversation.

Since he received his sentence he has been very submissive, and seemed to be resigned to his fate, and has been moderate in his entertainments.

When he understood that the gibbet was to be altered, he knew their plan, and said, That less trouble might be taken.—He planned the model of the new place of execution, he purchased the wood, and gave his assistance in finishing it.—But little did he imagine at that time, that he himself would made his *exit* on it.

His method of gambling with low company he laments, and acknowledges that it was not like himself, and says, That *gaming* if once begun, makes such a deep impression on the mind, that a man is unhappy when he is deprived of that pleasure! such was the case of this unfortunate gentleman. ,

He seems to be much concerned for his keeping company with so many women, some of whom, he said were very deceiving ;—Yet no man had a greater love for his children than Mr Brodie ; and,

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had it been in his power, he would have brought them up virtuously, and given them a genteel education.

As for John Geddes, tobaccoist in Mid-Calder, Brodie would not hear of his name: He said, That this fellow was certainly abandoned above most men; betraying trust, and laying aside all humanity, did feloniously and maliciously venture to break open Mr Brodie's letters; and seeing the newspapers, and hearing of the reward of L. 150 Sterling, for apprehending Brodie: He, with the advice of some of his counsellors, thought he was certain of that *blood premium*,—but was disappointed, and his design frustrated. He said that he forgot he had these letters, and kept them up three weeks; but during this time he was consulting how to execute his scheme. He then applied to an Honourable Gentleman for advice, who told him, That he himself knew best the directions that he had received from the person who committed these letters to his charge; and he left it to his own conscience to do with them what he pleased; and that he was not the proper person to apply to with these letters, having been consulted in Mr Brodie's affairs.

William Brodie, since his confinement, and the receiving his sentence, has been busy in writing poems, and at other times respecting his affairs, and has not in the least manner been affected; he sometimes said, it was a devilish pity mens lives were so short and so uncertain, and compared his life (as Job expresses it) like the sparks that fly upwards. He has read all the publications respecting his trial, and has given it as his opinion, that Mr Elliot's account was the best. He complained on the bad usage which he received while in Holland, where he received nothing but boiled beans and water at every meal, and was rejoiced to hear that he was to be brought to Scotland, to a city where he should be supplied with plenty of provisions, and where he knew that he should want for nothing that could satisfy his desires. A Rev. Clergyman attended him for some time, and gave him some instructions; and exhorted him to occupy his whole time and attention to the one thing needful, and to forget all worldly affairs; but he lent a deaf ear to all his entreaties. In the midst of a prayer, Brodie, imagining that the Minister was speaking too loud, touched him gently on the shoulder, and said, he need not cry so loud, the Lord was not deaf, for he would hear him as well in a low tone of voice; and the Minister was under the disagreeable necessity of quitting the apartment where he was. Some of his friends goes up to prison, and gives him all the consolation in their power;—but he appears to pay little attention to their admonitions.

Mr Brodie got acquainted with a lock smith in Birmingham, and there studied the art of making locks, and opening them by false keys. He came to Scotland after the High Church of Coventry had

had been robbed, consisting of the whole plate, vessels, and other useful things belonging to it, which was of great value, the plates and vessels being silver and gold. Coventry Church was reckoned a magnificent one, and equal to any in England, St Pauls in London excepted. There was a great reward offered to any who could discover the person or persons who committed this robbery, but it has never as yet been found out.

Smith has been very penitent since he received his sentence. He had an intention of writing his life and transactions, but he was persuaded against it; and he said if they were written, he believed a volume could scarce contain it. Smith was born in Berkshire, in England.

No. VII.

A C C O U N T

O F

WILLIAM BRODIE AND GEORGE SMITH.

William Brodie was the son of a respectable citizen, who gave him a good education. He was diligent in his learning, and was much respected by his masters, school-fellows, and companions. His father was a gentleman who was much respected: He was a branch of a good family in the North of Scotland. He carried on the business of a wright, cabinet-maker, and upholsterer, to a very considerable extent, and was employed by some of the best families in this part of the kingdom, by which he acquired a fortune of nine hundred a-year.

He brought up his son, William, to the same business, who followed his father's business and was well employed. On his father's decease, he succeeded to his business and fortune, (a proper portion being allotted for his two sisters.) He carried on an extensive business, and employed a number of men, who respected him greatly, as he used them well, and paid them regularly.

By his diligence and activity, he acquired an extensive business, and was well respected and esteemed. He rose by degrees in the Town-council, till he was at last elected a Council-deacon, and had a considerable sway in the corporation of St Mary's chapel, &c.

The love and desire of company, and an inclination to gaming, had such an effect upon him, that he was very unhappy when he was deprived of that innocent amusement.

He fell in with women, some of whom were of a bad reputation; others he kept up.—By Mrs G——, he has three fine children; and by another, (Jean Watt) he has two promising boys.

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He thought his fortune might support him in a genteel manner; which made him forget himself, and associate with much company, some of whom were abandoned to every vice.—Gambling and bad company made him forget himself, and when intoxicated with liquor, he listened to the schemes which they proposed, until their example made him as wicked as themselves. When he became acquainted with Brown, Smith, and Ainslie, he usually gambled with them, which some took notice of, but his character kept him from being suspected of any illicit practices.

After Smith, Brown, and Ainslie had broke into Mess, Inglis, Corner, and Cos. shop, and carried off the goods, they informed Rodic of their success, as he was not with them, or knew any thing of it. This encouraged him to keep company with them, and join in their depredations. They projected many fatal schemes to ruin several opulent shop-keepers in and about Edinburgh, schemes equal to these, were never heard of before in this country. They were to open the shop fixed upon, and one or two of the gang were to carry off the goods, and put them into any other shop they thought proper, and then to give information where the goods were.

By such unheard of villany, many innocent and reputable families might have been ruined, and a stain fixed upon their character. Several schemes similar to these, were attempted in order to ruin the innocent.

Brown was a noted sharper, and was tried in England several times. He was banished to the coast of Africa, but returned with —n M'K———e, who was tried at the Old Bailey, for shooting a man from the mouth of a cannon, who had been guilty of some breach of military discipline. Brown afterwards came to Scotland, and his behaviour since is partly known.

Smith was a lock-smith in Birmingham; and afterward travelled the country of England with a horse and cart, as a hawker.—He had followed several other trades before, but did not succeed. On his coming to this city, he took a shop in the Cowgate, and carried on business in the grocery line; when he kept a private gambling house, and his associates were punctual in their attendance. They made it their practice to take in strangers, and cheat them out of their money;—they were complete masters of the cards, dice, &c. and strangers seeing them gain money from each other, were tempted to enter the field, in hopes of gaining a fortune.

Smith had the dexterity to open almost every lock he found convenient, but when a key would not serve his turn, an iron bar, or the alter of a plough answered his purpose equally well. The crow with which he opened the Excise, was distinguished by the name of great Samuel or Goliath, and the iron crow had the appellation

pellation of the little Samuel. Mr Brodie was often in Smith's house, as Smith was greatly respected by him for his dexterity.

As there has been no riot or disturbance amongst the four criminals, since they received their sentence; we cannot give a further account of their transactions.—Brodie seems to be resigned to his fate; but has made no public speech;—Smith has made no speech; but various reports have been propagated concerning him which we shall not recapitulate.

They have been well attended by several ministers of this city and as humanely used by the keepers of the prison, as their situation would admit. On Sunday last, and several Sundays preceding, they were fervently prayed for in all the churches and chapels in and about this city.

No. VIII.

C O P Y O F A
H Y M N,

Given to the Prisoners, by a Reverend Gentleman of this City.

O That my load of sin were gone!
O that I could at last submit
At Jesus feet to lay it down,
To lay my soul at Jesus feet!
Rest for my soul I long to find.
Saviour of all, if mine thou art,
Give me thy meek and lowly mind,
and stamp thine image on my heart;
Break off the yoke of inbred sin,
And fully set my spirit free.
I cannot rest, till pure within,
Till I am wholly lost in thee.
Fain would I learn of thee, my God,
Thy light and easy burden prove;
The cross all stain'd with hallowed blood,
The labour of thy dying love.
I would, but thou must give the power,
My heart from every sin release;

Bring near, bring near the joyful hour,
 And fill me with thy perfect peace.
 Come, Lord ! the drooping sinner chear,
 Nor let thy chariot wheels delay ;
 Appear, in my poor heart appear ;
 My God, my Saviour, come away !
 Lord, I believe a rest remains,
 To all thy people known ;
 A rest, where pure enjoyment reigns,
 And thou art lov'd alone.
 A rest, where all our soul's desire
 Is fix't on things above ;
 Where fear, and sin, and grief expire,
 Cast out by perfect love.
 O that I now the rest might know,
 Believe, and enter in !
 Now Saviour, now the power bestow,
 And let me cease from sin.
 Remove this hardness from my heart,
 This unbelief remove ;
 To me the rest of faith impart,
 The Sabbath of thy love-
 I would be thine, thou knowest I would,
 And have thee all my own ;
 Thee, O my all sufficient good,
 I want, and thee alone.
 Thy name to me, thy nature grant,
 This, only this be given ;
 Nothing beside my God I want,
 Nothing in earth or heaven.
 Come O my Saviour, come away,
 Into my soul descend !
 No longer from thy creature stay,
 My author and my end.
 Come, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
 And seal me thine abode ;
 Let all I am in thee be lost,
 Let all be lost in God !

As rapid rolls my time away,
 Down the swift current ;
 A moment let the reader stay,
 And mark what after comes.
 As rivers glide towards the sea,
 And sink and lose them in the main ;
 So man declines, and what is he ?
 His hope, his wish, alas ! how vain.
 Fast goes each day, but still renew'd,
 The ball of time knows no decay :
 Sure sign of that greatest good,
 We hope in God's eternal day,

Edinburgh, 1st October 1788.

This day William Brodie and George Smith were execute at the west-end of the tolbooth, Edinburgh, pursuant to their sentence.

The criminals came out about half past two o'clock. Brodie appeared to be very little concerned, but Smith was very fervent in his devotions. Brodie's head was powdered and well dressed. He had on a suit of fine blacks, with black silk stockings. Smith was dressed in a suit of white linen, trimmed with black. After praying for a considerable time, Smith went first on the platform, and Brodie followed. Brodie, during the time the executioner was attempting to put the rope about Smith's neck, touched the rope with his hands, and looked up at it. But the ropes proving to be too short, the executioner was under the necessity of taking the ropes off the gallows, in order to make them longer ; and, after the ropes was taken down, Brodie jumped off the platform on the scaffold, and Smith remained alone,—who prayed earnestly to Heaven for forgiveness. Mr Brodie ascended the platform again, and the rope still being too short, they were under the necessity of taking it off a second time, and Brodie, being little affected at the scene, descended on the scaffold a second time, Smith still remained on it. They were then launched into eternity ; but Smith's rope being too long, his toes rested on the platform, the feet of which were cut away by the wrights, and he remained suspended.

During the execution, the bell of the high church was tolled, which was not remembered to have been done before on any similar occasion. They were attended at the place of execution by the Rev. Messrs. Cleeve and Hardy.